

CLAIMS

1. A drinking straw comprising a first end from which in
use a user drinks and a second end for dipping into a
5 liquid to be drunk, a temporary closure at said first
end closing the straw, a sealed and at least partially
evacuated chamber formed in said straw, the interior of
said chamber being closed against fluid communication
with the second end of the straw by a user openable
10 closure, whereby when the second end of said straw is
dipped in liquid and said user openable closure is
opened, vacuum in said chamber draws liquid through said
second end of the straw toward said chamber and into a
portion of said straw within which said liquid produces
15 a visible change.
2. A drinking straw as claimed in Claim 1, having a bore
defined within a wall member,

20 said straw comprising a portion extending from a
location intermediate said ends or at said second end
towards said first end, said portion constituting said
chamber,

25 means forming said user openable closure of said bore at
said location, and

the wall member at least in said portion of the straw being such that when liquid contents are present within the straw said contents produce a visible change.

5 3. A straw as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the temporary closure of the bore at said location is formed by a removable clamp compressing said wall member to close said bore.

10 4. A straw as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the temporary closure of the bore at said location is formed by an occlusion of the bore of the straw and the wall member adjacent said occlusion has a weakened area at which it is frangible by being bent by the user.

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5. A straw as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 4, wherein said location is intermediate the ends of the straw and divides said portion of the straw from a second portion extending from said location to the second end of the straw.

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6. A straw as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a vent hole is provided through said wall communicating with said bore in said second portion of the straw adjacent said location.

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7. A straw as claimed in Claim 1, having a bore for the passage of liquid to be drunk and wherein said chamber extends side by side with said bore over at least a portion of the length of the straw, and wherein said

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user openable closure is a frangible seal in a common wall separating said chamber from said bore.

- 5 8. A straw as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said portion of said straw in which said liquid is visible is shaped to include a plurality of coils or loops.
9. A straw as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said coils or loops form alphanumeric characters.
- 10 10. A straw as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the temporary closure at the first end of said straw is formed by a removable end cap applied to said straw.
- 15 11. A vessel containing a liquid having a straw as claimed in any preceding claim with said second end dipping into said liquid, such that upon opening of the user openable closure of said chamber, liquid is drawn into said portion in which it is visible.
- 20 12. A straw as claimed in Claim 1, having a bore or bores for the passage of liquid to be drunk and wherein said chamber or chambers extend side by side over at least the length of the straw, and wherein said bore or bores are allowed free flow passage of liquid providing the natural tension present in the straw is opposed to release the twist or kink within the straw which prevents passage of liquid. Releasing this tension will ensure that an air tight seal will prevent the liquid drawn up the straw by normal mouth suction, can not return to its normal level when influenced by gravity. It would also be possible to incorporate or add a one-way flap or valve within the
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- 35 straw to achieve the same effect.

A vessel as claimed in Claim 11, said vessel comprises a bulkhead above said liquid and a storage compartment defined between said bulkhead and a removable cover for said compartment, the said portion of said straw into which the liquid is drawn being at least partially contained within said storage compartment and the straw passing through an aperture in said bulkhead into said liquid.

13. A vessel as claimed in Claim 12, wherein a liquid tight seal is provided between said straw and said bulkhead.

14. A vessel as claimed in Claim 12 or Claim 13, wherein a breather aperture is provided in said bulkhead with means forming a removable seal for said breather aperture.

15. A vessel as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said removable seal means is connected to said removable cover such that removal of said cover unseals said breather aperture.

16. A vessel as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 15, wherein said removable cover is connected to the user openable closure of the compartment of the straw such that removal of said cover opens said user openable closure to allow liquid into said portion of the straw in which it is visible.

17. A vessel as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 16, wherein upon removal of the removable cover, the straw spontaneously extends itself out of said compartment.

18. A vessel containing a liquid and having a drinking straw dipping into said liquid, wherein said vessel comprises a bulkhead above said liquid and a storage compartment defined between said bulkhead and a removable cover for said compartment, a first portion of said straw being contained within said storage compartment and a second

portion of said straw passing through an aperture in said bulkhead into said liquid.

19. A vessel as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the drinking
5 straw is as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 12.